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T. C. JONES, EDITOR.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

Chipley, Fla., Nov. 6th 1897.

The editor needs every cent due him on subscription, so remember to come and pay up.

No matter what Administration made the bargain, it is the duty of the present Administration to stop the steal of \$20,000,000 by the Pacific Railroad reorganization syndicate. It is right to repudiate criminal agreements at any stage of the transaction. This is good law as well as good morals.—N. Y. World.

Passenger agents of the leading railways in the southern states met in Cincinnati last week with the general passenger agents of railways north of the Ohio river and decided on the same rates to southern winter resorts as prevailed last season. These rates on lines both north and south of the Ohio are now in effect.

Governor Bloxham has appointed the following commissioners to represent Florida at the Trans-Mississippi and International exposition to be held at Omaha, Neb., from June to November, 1898: W. K. Decker, Tarpon Springs; M. R. Marks, Orlando; S. Boteler Thompson, Lake City; John D. Peabody, Ozone, state agent of the exposition.

"We must act with energy towards Washington," says one of those virulent little dittos of the Spanish press. That's what they've been promising us all the time—war, war, war. Expectancy is still rife, and in the dim distance we can discern Spanish prowess still retreating. It's only war on paper with them and paper is cheap.—Ex.

A young man in Mississippi desires an engagement as the correspondent of a newspaper. He states that he writes "stories of all kinds, poems, rhymes, letters on politics, stories of courtships, detective stories and comic pieces." He has a drama of 18,000 words "in 14 acts and 12 scenes." This literary wonder should go to New York and make Stephen Crane ashamed of himself.—Ex.

The rumor that Spain had threatened to grab Florida causes the Chicago Chronicle to fire off the following: That is the great idea—take Florida. The thing now to fire the American heart is to make the American people believe that Spain really means to carry war into America and grab Florida. What could make all the people of this country "flaming mad" quicker than to made them believe that Spain meant to grab Florida? Nothing surely.—Sentinel.

When you pick up a newspaper published in a town remote from your home city, the first thing you look at by which to form an opinion of the place is the amount and character of the advertisements. In writing on this subject the Philadelphia Times says: "The advertising columns of legitimate newspapers are now regarded by the more intelligent and thrifty portion of the public as an unerring barometer of the character, energy and success of business men, and those who fail to appreciate the now universally accepted method of reaching the people must fall behind the pace for business profits."

GAGE'S CURRENCY REFORM PLAN.

It is pretty well understood what the currency reform plan is which Mr. Gage, the Secretary of the Treasury, will recommend to congress in his annual report. Whether or not this plan will have the approval of the currency commission, appointed by the Indianapolis convention is a subject for speculation. Nobody seems to know whether Mr. Gage has discussed the matter with the commission.

In brief Mr. Gage proposes that all the greenbacks and Sherman notes shall be called in and national bank bills issued in the place of them; that all the government obligations shall be funded into 2½ per cent gold bonds; that the silver in the treasury vaults shall be coined and certificates issued against it; that national banks shall be permitted to issue notes to the full par value of the bonds deposited as security for circulation; that the tax on national bank circulation shall be only sufficient to cover the expense of administering the national banking law and that national banks shall be permitted to organize with a capital of \$25,000 in communities where there is complaint of a want of currency.

The secretary thinks that 2½ per cent gold bonds would sell readily at par. The greater part of the bonded debt bears interest at 4 and 5 per cent, and the secretary's refunding scheme would effect an annual saving of about \$17,000,000. To re-

tire the greenbacks and Sherman notes would require the sale of about \$200,000,000 in bonds, but the interest on these additional bonds would not be anywhere near the amount which the refunding of the debt would save.

If this plan should be adopted the gold standard would be so firmly established that there would be comparatively little fear of the free silver movement; but is there any prospect of its being adopted? It is doubtful if the Senate would consider it seriously. No gold standard measure can get through that body as it is constituted at present.

It is a question whether the President will strongly endorse the plan in his message. His administration is pledged to currency reform, but he isn't going to do anything in respect to the currency until he is certain that he has the support of the people. Besides, he hasn't yet provided revenues sufficient to meet the government expenditures. The Dingley tariff bill isn't the revenue producer it was expected it would be, and the chances are that it will be amended in some important particulars next winter. Badly as a reform of the currency is needed the prospect that any steps toward reforming it will be taken by this congress is not very promising.—Savannah News.

SHOOTING FROM THE KNEES.

At the morning service in a Methodist church in Sioux City a few Sundays ago, a young lady played a violin solo as an offertory. In the closing prayer the pastor entreated the Lord to bless all the services "except the fiddling." The St. Louis advocate thinks that there will be a general agreement with the pastor "in the exception he took." We hope not. It is one thing for a thoughtless girl to exhibit her fiddling talent in church, it is another thing for a grave preacher to exhibit his temper in prayer. We have never been able to see any justification for this miserable habit of firing at people from one's knees behind the pulpit—a habit which we are happy to believe is steadily disappearing this side of Sioux City.

HOW THE STEAL WAS STOPPED.

The Evening Post calls for an explanation of the dickerings with the Union Pacific sale. It says:

We are aware that the Union Pacific Government directors and the officials of two Administrations had advised accepting the syndicate's offer as the best obtainable, but it now appears that it was not the best obtainable by \$8,000,000. This we say, ought to be explained. Such transactions unexplained do more to promote Bryanism and Socialism than all the books and speeches together.

The explanation is perfectly simple. There was a scheme to rob the Government of \$8,000,000 on this main line and of \$13,000,000 on the Kansas Pacific division. The Government directors lent their countenance to the plan and two administrations assented to it.

Then The World turned the searchlight of PUBLICITY on the steal and revealed its true character. Instantly the Government was forced to defend the Treasury against the robbers, and the robbers at once made haste give up their \$8,000,000 of loot lest they lose the enormous profits incident to the purchase of the road.

But how about the Kansas Pacific steal of \$13,000,000? What steps is the Administration taking to stop that? What is it doing to compel the syndicate to advance that part of its bid to a figure that will cover the whole of the Government claim or is it disposed to allow that part of the looting?

Stop the whole steal!

—N. Y. World.

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THE SPANISH REPLY.

Our dispatches say that the reply of Spain has not been received by our Government, but its purport is very well known. It is an attempt to prove that the immense sacrifices of Spain in Cuba have been fruitless solely because the United States have failed to do their duty under international law. Beyond this there is probably an intimation that Spain will go to war rather than permit interference by the United States to restore peace in Cuba.

On the whole, the position assumed by the Spanish Government seems to be bolder, more self-assertive, more provocative of trouble than any ventured upon by the Canovas Ministry. Coming into power with the announced intention of placating the Cubans by conceding most of their demands, Senor Sagasta resents foreign interference far more vigorously than his predecessor, who offered no concessions, ventured to do.

We are inclined to think his position a perfectly logical one. Offering the olive branch to the Cubans in the form of self-government, he is in far better position to defy the United States than was his predecessor, who offered only the sword and torch as the alternative to subject surrender. He is in better position because the civilized world revolted against the methods of his predecessor, and will see in his attempt to put government in Cuba on a reasonable basis.

But if the Cuban people are determined to be free, Senor Sagasta will fail as signally as did Canovas. He does not offer the Cubans freedom, but only a modification of the conditions of their present dependence upon Spain. If they refuse this offer, if they continue to fight for absolute freedom, the situation will remain as it has been, and in the long run our Government will be compelled to take some action. It is inconceivable that we can permit such a war to go on forever on the theory that a European Power has indefeasible rights in its colonies on this side of the Atlantic. The beginning of our own national history shows that we must always reject that theory, and uphold the antagonistic one that naturally and as a matter of right the Cubans have a right to govern themselves in complete independence of any and every other people.

We may not wish to go to war to establish this principle, and as a matter of fact we do not—but in the event of the continuance of the war we do not see how our Government, having regard for it and for the sympathies of the people, can avoid doing as much as recognizing the Cubans as belligerents.

That would be interference, from the Spanish point of view, and would justify a declaration of War against the United States, but, in our opinion, our Government should not be guided by the wishes or the threats of Spain. If the men who have stood out for two years and a half against an army of 250,000 men are entitled to the rights of belligerents, these rights should certainly be accorded by the Government of a people which believes in popular government, no matter what the action of Spain may be.

Senor Sagasta may find that he has assumed too haughty an attitude. The people of the United States are a peace-loving people, dreading war, but, nevertheless, about the last in the world whom it is safe to hector. They may hesitate to interfere in Cuba, for fear of doing wrong; they will not hesitate for a moment for fear of anything Spain may do, and may act more hastily than they would otherwise have done because of Spain's provocative attitude.—Times-Union and Citizen.

CHARACTERISTIC OF THE SOUTH.

The St. Louis Republic says, among other things concerning the South:

The sun of prosperity was beaming upon them and the hum of factory and ring of anvil were filling the air with music. Suddenly the industrial fabric shuddered from the first shock of a calamity greater and more terrible than that of flood and storm. The cry of yellow fever in the South is more disheartening than the

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This misfortune, following so close upon the heels of the spring flood, has severely tried the patience and energy of the Southland, and that sympathy which is the cement of good society goes out to the brave people from all parts of the world. Though the malady is mild in type and confined to small areas, yet the fear caused by the reported appearance of the dread disease has had an effect on Southern industry and enterprise.

When has the South ever despaired? Has it not had worse trials than these, and have they not been overcome.

The South's recuperative powers are indeed wonderful. War, floods and fevers have been survived, financial calamities have been passed through and soon removed, and the South is ready to meet all its undaunted. It can still hold out in many more struggles and is ever ready to blossom out in full beauty again.—Pensacola News.

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NO THOROUGHFARE.

Spain is out of patience with our government—so are we. She wishes to put a stop to filibusterism—we don't. She would like to fight us, but she's afraid—we don't want to fight her and we are not afraid. She realizes this and doesn't know how to take us. If we could, we might give her a hint to quit thinking about it.

She has but to leave Cuba alone and we'll do the same for her. We are not aggressive, but progressive in the fullest sense of the term, and as peaceful. Spain realizes all this, which makes the problem for her more knotty than ever. We hardly blame a tumble-down nation like Spain for wanting to keep her only means of subsistence.

Cuba has been her mainstay these long years, ever since her home influence in commerce began to decline. To wrest the island from her would be making her poor indeed. Judging by the determination of the Cuban insurgents, she will have to endure what she cannot cure, just as she has done many a time before.—News.

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